# C O N C O R D I A  U N I V E R S I T Y

## SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**M I N U T E S**
(AMENDED)

**(of SRC meeting held on Thursday, September 26, 1991 at 10:00 A.M., in Room BC-110, SGW campus)**

**ATTENDANCE -**

| | |
|---|---|
| Members present: | V. Baba, P. Bird, U. De Brentani, E. Doedel, D. Ginter, J.N. Lightstone (Chair), D. Markiewicz, R.J. Parker, S. Sankar, P. Shizgal, M.N.S. Swamy, A. Williams, Evelyne Loo (Secretary) |
| Absent: | M. Haique, A. Zaidi |

**DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**At Meeting:**

| | |
|---|---|
| SRC-09-26-91-D146 | RESPONSES RECEIVED ON MRC'S POSITION PAPER ON SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY. |
| SRC-09-26-91-D147 | COPY OF DOCUMENT FROM CREPUQ - GUIDELINES FOR INVESTIGATORS IN BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF MISCONDUCT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF RESEARCH. |
| SRC-09-26-91-D148 | CODE OF ETHICS FROM INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE. |

Dr. Jack N. Lightstone occupied the Chair.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

## 1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by the Committee.

## 2.0 MINUTES

As there were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the last meeting, they were approved unanimously.

There was no particular business arising.

## 3.0 REPORT OF CHAIR

The Chair reported that at the last Senate Meeting a document was presented by Graduate Studies on "Parental Leave for Graduate Students". A number of questions have been raised regarding its effects on the activities in the laboratory. The SRC has been asked by Senate to look into the matter.

It was suggested that the Chair recommend to the Dean of Graduate Studies that Graduate Students be advised of the existence of this document.

## 4. REPORT OF DIRECTOR, RESEARCH SERVICES

No report made.

## 5.0 MRC PAPER ON SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

The Chair announced that CREPUQ will be meeting shortly to discuss this MRC document. It was also noted that some reactions to the document had been received. Dr. Shizgal reviewed for the Committee some of his concerns as follows :

- one cannot be both advocate and judge in such situations. Separate structures must be established to respond to each of these functions.

- the preamble should be modified so as to indicate the self-correcting nature of research. Attempts to replicate important findings ensure that fraud will be detected rapidly in competitive areas of research".

5.0 MRC PAPER ON SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY (Continued)

- In Recommendation 2 concern was expressed as to some of the mechanisms to be undertaken by the institution:

  "peer review of the research" - this requires evaluation by recognized experts who are ***at arm's length*** from the work in question. Thus, in most cases, peer review must involve experts from other institutions."

  "establishing criteria for authorship of publications", most professional organizations assume this role, with established standards already in place;

  requirements for "retention of original data" - this needs clarification and further elaboration, institutions can at best provide the guidelines for such a requirement; granting agencies impose their own protocols in this regards;

  the phrase, " as far as possible" is inconsistent with the notion of due process. The phrase should be struck.

  Recommendation 3 also raises a number of concerns:

  adequate mechanisms to be established by the institution;

  investigations might be undertaken by both the institution and the granting agency; whether these be done concurrently or in serial order needs to be established.

  One important factor to be stressed is that every effort be made to avoid "trial by media". The role of investigation and of advocacy must be handled separately. The investigative process must protect the rights of both the accuser and the accused.

Swamy suggested that in designing protocols for Concordia the SRC should seek from Me Gamache, John Relton, the Deans and Vice-Rector, Academic.

- The Committee recommended that the concerns raised by Dr. Shizgal and others be forwarded to MRC.

5.0 MRC PAPER ON SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY (Continued)

- SRC will take the initiative of recommending to Senate internal mechanism to ensure the Scientific Integrity of researchers at Concordia.

6. Varia

7 Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 1991 at 10:00 a.m. in BC-110.

8. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.